

Scoops

Providing the latest dish on Child Nutrition News and Information

Volume 1, June 2003

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Arizona Department of
Education,
Child Nutrition Team
2005 North Central Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona
(602) 542-8700
ade.az.gov/health-safety/cnp/

Lynne Dulin

Director Student Services

Holly Mohr

Team leader

National School Lunch Programs

Mary Szafranski

Team Leader

Food Distribution Program

Patricia Johnson

Scoops Editor, Professional

Development Specialist

Tristine Bogle

Summer Food Specialist

Kacey Frey

Summer Food Specialist

Katrina Klatt

CRE Specialist

Stacey Patterson

SMI Specialist

Jennifer Hickey

Special Assistance Specialist

Tracey Nissen

Program & Projects Specialist



Tom Horne

Superintendent of Public Instruction

Dear School Nutrition Professionals:

We are excited to bring you our first edition of "Scoops". This is something many of you have requested over the years. We hope you find the information useful as you begin another school year. Future editions will be coming to you quarterly.

The Arizona Department of Education has new leadership and we find this quite exciting. Superintendent Tom Horne and members of his executive team strongly support school nutrition programs. This support has been demonstrated by encouraging schools to adopt a nutrition policy. Plans are under way to present a model nutrition policy to the Arizona State Board in August.

Additionally, ADE has successfully administered the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). This survey will provide significant information about dietary behaviors of students. We will be able to compare Arizona's students to students in other states.

In addition to this newsletter, the staff has developed a step-by-step training manual on how to operate the electronic direct certification system. Just think – no more paper telling you who is eligible for free/reduced meals. It is automated! This will reduce the number of applications required for verification. The direct certification system can be easily accessed at : <https://www.ade.az.gov/CNPDirectCert/Adhoc.asp>

If you are new to Child Nutrition Programs we provide technical assistance to help answer your questions.

Let's hope the Reauthorization of the Child Nutrition Programs brings good news. We look forward to continuing working with you.

Fondly,

Lynne Dulin

Director, Student Services

Upcoming Workshops

Date	Topic	Location	Time
7/17/2003	Healthy Vending	Tucson	1:30-2:45
7/30/2003	Food Distribution/ Nutrition Track	Phoenix	8:30-4:30
7/31/2003	Business Track	Phoenix	8:30-3:00
8/5/2003	Food Distribution/ Nutrition Track	Flagstaff	8:30-4:30
8/6/2003	Business Track	Flagstaff	8:30-3:00
8/7/2003	Special Assistance	Flagstaff	1:00-4:30
8/19/2003	Food Distribution/ Nutrition Track	Phoenix	8:30-4:30
8/20/2003	Business Track	Phoenix	8:30-3:00
8/27/2003	Preparing for your Administrative Review	Tucson	9:00-12:00
9/3/2003	Food Distribution/ Nutrition Track	Chinle	8:30-4:30
9/4/2003	Business Track	Chinle	8:30-3:00
9/5/2003	NuMenu Training	Chinle	8:30-12:30
9/16/2003	Special Assistance	Phoenix	1:00-4:30
9/17/2003	Food Distribution/ Nutrition Track	Phoenix	8:30-4:30
9/18/2003	Business Track	Phoenix	8:30-3:00
9/23/2003	Training Pathways	Phoenix	8:30-12:30
9/24/2003	Food Distribution/ Nutrition Track	Tucson	8:30-4:30
9/25/2003	Business Track	Tucson	8:30-3:00
9/26/2003	Special Assistance	Tucson	1:00-4:30

Special Assistance Made Easy

*All you wanted to know is just a
click away!*

ADE is launching a new link on their website to highlight Special Assistance. Whether you are currently part of the program or thinking of joining this website will prove beneficial. Both Provision 2 and Provision 3 are explained in detail with examples for each. The "Feature Comparison" option contrasts the two provisions according to their characteristics, base-year and non-base year requirements. For those considering implementing the program in their school, the website offers fundamental information for the decision process. Links such as "Am I a good candidate" provides scenarios of how the program works in different settings from inner city, to rural, to the reservation. "Do I qualify" lists the needed requirements to be approved. From there, the "How to get started" link will guide the interested participant through the groundwork leading through the application and approval process. If your school is already participating, do not feel left out! Explanations about extensions and streamlining your base year will be useful as you progress through the Special Assistance Program. Examples and a percentage calculator offer a convenient way to apply the information to your specific situation and help in the daily grind. Answers to frequently asked questions are very useful for those not sure what to do next. One of the most valuable tools on the website is the "Financial Analysis". Step by step instructions make a potentially confusing process easy as it steers you through the course to determine financial impact. A plethora of information can be found through this new website to support you through all aspects of the Special Assistance Program.

Try it out
for yourself at

[http://www.ade.az.gov/
/health-safety/cnp/sa/
welcome.asp](http://www.ade.az.gov/health-safety/cnp/sa/welcome.asp)



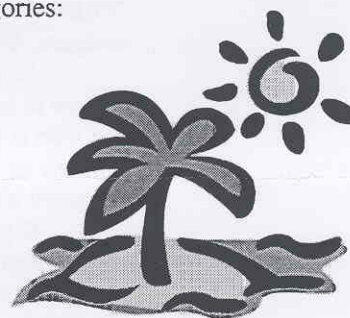
Sensational Summer Food Programs

Summer is officially here and many of you are in the midst of your Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). In Arizona, close to 500,000 children participate in the National School Lunch Program. However, only 16,000 children participate in a Summer Food Program indicating the great need for the SFSP. The Child Nutrition Program Specialists at the Department of Education would like to thank those of you offering the SFSP for the wonderful service you perform. You are helping to reach the thousands of children that may not have access to healthy meals when school is not in session.

We know that many of you have outstanding Summer Food programs. For that reason, we are going to begin a SFSP "Desert Oasis Award". This award will recognize the outstanding achievements and hard work that have occurred throughout the state in providing nutritious meals to children through the Summer Food Program. These awards allow the Arizona Department of Education the opportunity to recognize creative, successful strategies and share them with other sponsors throughout the State of Arizona. The SFSP is truly a "Desert Oasis" for children in the hot Arizona summer and we are looking forward to presenting awards for jobs well done.

More information on the "Desert Oasis Award" including the nomination form and judging criteria will be mailed mid-July. We will be accepting applications from the five following categories:

- ✱ Outstanding Outreach
- ✱ Magnificent Menus
- ✱ Spectacular Staff
- ✱ Greatest Growth Rate
- ✱ Best All Around



We wish you a fun and successful Summer Food Program and we look forward to receiving nominations for the *Desert Oasis Award*!

Eating Habits Linked to Environment

Eating Habits start young and play a vital role in the physical and mental development of school age children. There are a variety of factors that influence the food choice of a child. One important consideration is the environment in which food is served and consumed. This encompasses not only lighting and decoration, but also music and climate. The accessibility of food and the display of food also affects eating habits. When children are required to go through a separate cafeteria line in order to get dessert there is a decrease in the consumption of those food items. Studies show that there is a direct correlation between the eating environment and a child's eating habits.

Bordi, Peter L., et al. "Impact of the Environment on Food Choices and Eating Habits of School-Age Children: A USDA-Sponsored Research Agenda Conference." *Journal of Child Nutrition & Management* (Issue 2, Fall 2002)

Remarkable Review Recognition



There are many new and exciting things going on within the Arizona Department of Education Child Nutrition Programs. Among them, we are very pleased to announce the “*Outstanding CRE Award*” and the “*Outstanding SMI Award*.” Every year we have the distinct privilege of visiting over one hundred Arizona educational institutions. Many of these visits are conducted for the purpose of reviewing the administration of the National School Lunch Program and the School Meals Initiative. Each Arizona Food Service Director, along with their food service personnel, is constantly faced with a set of unique challenges. They work tirelessly and continuously strive for excellence, as evidenced through the reviews that are conducted. The Child Nutrition Programs Specialists have been working together to create the CRE and SMI awards as a means of publicly recognizing those school lunch programs that have met the challenge and risen to the top.

At the close of each school year, ADE specialists and consultants will have the opportunity to nominate one or more school lunch programs for their outstanding CRE and/or SMI review. Nominations are limited to those SFAs that have received a review during the current school year. Those lunch programs that have been nominated for either or both awards will receive a memo announcing their nomination in late June. During the month of July the NSLP award committee will meet to determine the award recipients. Award determinations will be based on a list of established criteria. CRE award criteria include passing both performance standards (PS 1 and PS 2), helpful and friendly food service staff, minimal fiscal action taken, among many other considerations. SMI award criteria include meeting the nutrition standards, offering variety and creativity in menu planning, providing all required menu planning documentation, among other considerations. The SFAs selected will be notified in late August. CRE/SMI award winners will be presented with a recognition plaque at the Fall Mega Conference, November 18-21, 2003.

Look for CRE/SMI award winners and nominees to be announced in the next quarterly edition of Scoops, due out in September.



New Payment Information Phone Line

Child Nutrition Programs has a new recorded message phone line that provides up-to-date information on the status of reimbursement payments for the School Nutrition Program, Summer Food Service Program, and Child and Adult Care Food Program. The phone number for the recorded message is:

(602) 542-5300



New Advisory Council

The Food Distribution Program is pleased to announce the creation of the Food Distribution Advisory Council. Council members are comprised of school districts from across the State. We have taken steps to ensure that there are a wide variety of school districts, such as large, medium and small districts. Rural and reservation schools serve on the council as well. They are your eyes and ears for commodity issues. Council members will rotate every year, serving a two-year term.

The goal of the Advisory Council is to expand communication between the Department and schools throughout the state. Based on the needs of Food Service Directors the council will conduct training and work on special projects for the Department. Below I have listed current members of the council for districts to contact with challenges and/or suggestions.

- ◆ **Karma Jones** Co-chair, Kingman USD;
- ◆ **Rachel Angulo** Co-chair, Gilbert USD;
- ◆ **Kathy Glindmeier**, Paradise Valley USD;
- ◆ **Julie Lewis**, Mesa USD;
- ◆ **Pam Palmo**, Tucson USD;
- ◆ **Bette Thompson**, ASPIN;
- ◆ **Pam Gorowara**, Tempe Elem;
- ◆ **Terri McGehee**, Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community Schools;
- ◆ **Lynn Hansen**, Kyrene Elem;
- ◆ **Chris Doyle**, Roosevelt Elem;
- ◆ **Mary Donovan**, Fowler Elem;
- ◆ **Michael Whyte**, Dept of Education
- ◆ **Mary Szafranski**, Food Distribution Program Director.

We all look forward to hearing from you, bringing new issues to the membership for resolution, as well as hearing suggestions that will assist us to better administer the Food Distribution Program.



Task Force works to positively "Change the Scene" in Arizona

An ADE survey conducted in January 2003 found that only 7.4 % of Arizona School Food Authorities have a nutrition policy currently in place. Thank you to all who responded to this survey! As those various policies were evaluated it became evident that none of them were comprehensive and complete, indicating the need for a state level nutrition policy. A "Model" Nutrition Policy is currently under development in the state of Arizona. This exciting new venture strives to change the school meal environment throughout the state to one that both promotes and provides a healthy nutritional environment for all students. A task force of food service professionals is still developing the "Model" Nutrition Policy. This task force consists of food service directors, managers, government agencies and other entities with a vested interest in the health and well being of the students in Arizona. The policy covers **Food Service Operations** and **Food Choices at School and a Healthy School Environment**.

The purpose and goal of this "Model" Nutrition Policy is to empower Arizona students with the knowledge and skills they need to make nutritious, enjoyable food choices that will sustain them throughout their life. Additionally, all school staff will be strongly encouraged to model healthy eating behavior on a daily basis. It is expected that school leaders will embrace and implement this policy to encourage healthy eating among students.

Many organizations have already thrown their support behind the "Model" Nutrition Policy including the AZ Department of Health Services, ASU, AZ Parent Teachers Association, AZ Dietetic Association, AZ Dental Association, AZ Association of School Nurses, AZ School Business Officials, AZ School Food Service Association, AZ Action for Healthy Kids Coalition, the Dairy Council of AZ and many more. The ADE has applied for a USDA Team Nutrition grant to study the financial impact and provide financial assistance to some select schools that adopt this innovative policy. We anxiously wait for August when we discover if we were awarded this special grant.

We need you to get out there and support this policy by reaching out to administrators, teachers and school nurses. Start spreading the news! These are exciting times for child nutrition in the state of Arizona.

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Arizona Department of Education
1535 West Jefferson
Phoenix, AZ 85007

